

ABCmouse.com EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD FROM CHILDREN'S TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

Full Curriculum, Preschool through Kindergarten Educational Website <u>ABCmouse.com</u> Stands Out Among Top Technology Products for Kids in Leading Monthly Publication

January 11, 2011 (Glendale, CA): <u>ABCmouse.com</u> *Early Learning Academy*—a pioneering full online curriculum preschool through kindergarten educational website launched publicly in November 2010—recently received the prestigious Editor's Choice Award from *Children's Technology Review* (CTR), a monthly publication that features the latest products and trends in children's interactive media.

CTR's review process is designed to broadly measure five factors that generally apply to most children's interactive media experiences: ease of use, educational value, entertainment value, design features, and overall value. Global variables strongly influence the ratings in each of these factors, especially "smart" features (like the ability to adapt to a child's capabilities or to expand in complexity), respecting a child's time (for example, by making it easy to save work or progress), and so on. On a scale of 1 to 5, ABCmouse.com received 4.5 stars.

CTR Editor Warren Buckleitner wrote in his review, "This solid, subscription-based curriculum for preschool through kindergarten lets children explore a wide variety of content in a structured way. After you play a few levels you quickly can see that teachers played a hand in all aspects of this service." Buckleitner also noted, "This type of service is complete enough to supplement an existing school curriculum or provide the backbone of a home-based curriculum."

Buckleitner, a former preschool and elementary school teacher, founded CTR in 1993 after spending 10 years at the HighScope Educational Research Foundation. He has been an adviser to *Consumer Reports* WebWatch as well as a judge for the Association of Educational Publishers' Golden Lamp awards and has taught at Michigan State, along with New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program and the Rutgers Graduate School of Education. In addition to serving as editor of CTR, Buckleitner writes for *Parents* magazine and *Scholastic Parent & Child* magazine, among other publications.

ABCmouse.com *Early Learning Academy* provides parents and teachers with a safe, engaging online environment where young children can learn their ABC's using a computer mouse, thus the name, ABCmouse.com. The goal of this new and unique learning experience is to help children build a strong foundation for future academic success by providing engaging educational content that supplements and supports preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten programs in the subject areas of

reading, mathematics, social studies, beginning science, art, and music. The site's comprehensive curriculum, developed in collaboration with nationally recognized early childhood education experts, offers a depth and breadth of educational content for early learners never before seen in one location on the web. From *ABC's* and *123's* to *Thank You* and *Please*, ABCmouse.com is "Bringing Learning to Life®" by offering more than 2,000 individual learning activities—online books, games, songs, puzzles, art activities, and printables—contained within more than 350 custom lesson plans spanning six academic levels.

In addition to being available as a subscription service for parents at home, ABCmouse.com's extensive curriculum is available at no cost to public schools throughout the United States and Canada, where teachers are finding its rich variety of quality learning activities of tremendous value as an additional resource in the classroom. Dr. Rebecca Palacios, an ABCmouse.com curriculum advisor and a pre-k and kindergarten teacher for more than 25 years who was also a Founding Director of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, remarked that "ABCmouse.com *Early Learning Academy* is an extensive curriculum resource that helps teachers of young children provide for the academic needs of individual students in their diverse classrooms, and at the same time is a powerful teaching tool that incorporates best practices in early childhood education. It is a resource that I enthusiastically recommend to preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten teachers across America."

ABCmouse.com recently announced the release of a new collection of highly innovative educational apps for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch, with engaging features to enhance early learning. These apps, which introduce three of ABCmouse.com's new children's books series beginning with six beautifully illustrated interactive books as well as an interactive zoo environment, are the first of ABCmouse.com's ongoing series of releases of educational apps for young learners, extending its online curriculum to the mobile platform and providing opportunities for children to learn from ABCmouse.com no matter where they are. Direct links to these apps are provided below.

Doug Dohring, Founder and CEO of Age of Learning, Inc., which owns and operates ABCmouse.com commented, "We're very pleased to receive the *Children's Technology Review* **Editor's Choice Award** because it recognizes that ABCmouse.com is an extremely rich resource for parents and educators that goes well beyond educational games and interactive children's books.

"Our goal in creating the site has been to develop a complete online supplementary curriculum in which *every* learning activity is very engaging, fun, and highly educational for young children—whether it's about phonics, word families, counting, colors, shapes, animals, weather, or any of the dozens of other topics in our curriculum. And even though there are already thousands of learning activities at ABCmouse.com, we will continuously be adding more content to keep the site fresh and new for our young learners. It has been and continues to be a major development effort and the



CTR review, as well as the very positive feedback we are getting from our members, helps us to know that we're on the right track."

Mr. Dohring further noted, "I would like to acknowledge our many curriculum advisors, including Kim Oliver Burnim, Dr. Rebecca Palacios, Dave Hendry, Dr. John Bollard, Phyllis Baecker, Kevin O'Donnell, and others, for their valuable contributions in making ABCmouse.com the high quality children's educational resource it is today, capable of earning the site this recognition."

About ABCmouse.com Early Learning Academy and Age of Learning, Inc.

ABCmouse.com *Early Learning Academy* is a global education initiative of Age of Learning, Inc., whose goal is to help children build a strong foundation for future academic success by providing a comprehensive and engaging online curriculum to greatly assist early learners to succeed in pre-k, kindergarten, and early elementary school programs. The site is named ABCmouse.com because it's a place where children can learn important educational basics (often referred to as "the ABC's") through the use of a computer mouse, thus ABCmouse.com. At ABCmouse.com, the computer mouse comes to life as ABC Mouse, who serves as the site ambassador and guide to early learners everywhere.

Age of Learning, Inc. has filed multiple patents related to its uniquely designed educational content delivery methods and systems.

For information about ABCmouse.com you can visit these links:

Links:

www.ABCmouse.com

www.ABCmouse.com/AboutUs

www.ABCmouse.mobi

Introduction (Sizzle Reel): www.ABCmouse.com/sizzle

Electronic Press Kit: www.ABCmouse.com/EPK

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ABCmouse

Assets: www.ABCmouse.com/assets

Direct links to each ABCmouse.com mobile app in the iTunes App Store:

ABCmouse.com Aesop's Fable Series: *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*

ABCmouse.com Aesop's Fable Series: <u>The Tortoise and the Hare</u>

ABCmouse.com Beginning Reader Series: Big Bug and Little Bug



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ABCmouse.com Beginning Reader Series: The Hen in the Pen

ABCmouse.com Beginning Reader Series: Dan and Jan

ABCmouse.com presents Search and Explore: The Grand Canyon (free download)

Interactive Environment Series: <u>Visit the Zoo, Set 1</u> (Elephants, Zebras, Penguins, Lions, and Pandas)

Official Seal for Editor's Choice Award from Children's Technology Review:



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